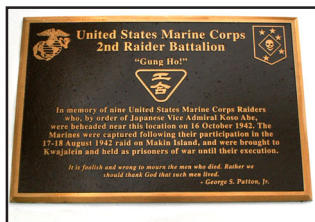


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Co-existing with bears and moose, See Page 16

The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Volume 10, Number 10, November 2003



Photo by Debra Valine

Leading the troops

LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. leads his troops in a farewell fun run Oct. 30 in Crystal City, Va. A series of fun runs and farewell dinners have been held to honor the Cosumanos as they prepare to end their more than 35 year military career. A change of command and special retirement ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Nov. 18 at Fort Myer, Va. See story on Page 4.

SMDC, National Guard activate nation's first Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade

By Maj. Laura Kenney
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — An historic moment for the nation's homeland defense strategy took place here Oct. 16 when the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Colorado Army National Guard activated the nation's first Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade.

The brigade will operate the first part of the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System, which, in concert with sister services, is designed to protect the nation from accidental or intentional limited ballistic missile attacks. It will be manned by Colorado Army National Guard and active component soldiers.

The brigade will provide expertise to U.S. Northern Command's command and control operations from the



Photo by Dennis Plummer

Air Force Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, adjutant general of the Colorado National Guard, unfurls the flag of the newly activated Colorado National Guard Midcourse Defense Brigade. The "stand-up" took place at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command, standing to Whitney's right, hosted the event with Whitney. The commander of the new brigade, Col. Gary Baumann, stands to Cosumano's right.

See **GMD Brigade** on Page 6

The Command Corner



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.
Commanding General



CSM David Lady
Command Sgt. Maj.

Each year, November provides us an important opportunity to extend thanks for our peace, freedom and our many blessings. This time is even more meaningful as we recognize the extraordinary contributions of our veterans to the nation and the fight against tyranny and injustice throughout the world. Truly, there is much to reflect upon — and even more to be grateful for.

Our nation paused on Nov. 11, Veterans Day, to honor those American men and women who have served our country in uniform. We pay tribute to those whose sacrifices and selfless-service provided for us the privileges of freedom, democracy and unmatched opportunities that we enjoy in the United States.

We take this occasion to recognize all veterans who have honorably worn the uniform of this great nation, regardless of their service and the era in which they have served. All our veterans have given something of themselves to this country and some have given all, particularly those who laid down their lives to defend the freedoms we hold so dear. The greatest tribute we can make to their sacrifice is our continued commitment to the ideals for which they served this nation.

Our thoughts are also with the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and thousands of civilians and volunteers who toil away far from their homes and families. More than 368,900 soldiers are currently deployed and forward stationed in 120 countries, helping in the fight for freedom and liberty. Likewise, members of the SMDC team serve today literally around the world, from here in the United States to Germany, the Middle East, Okinawa and to the Kwajalein Atoll.

Veterans' families and military families have also paid a price for freedom. Families have long provided strength and values to our soldiers, our Army and our nation. The extraordinary ability of our families in managing these challenges allows soldiers to perform their assigned missions effectively. Long deployments, family separations and frequent relocations are among the special challenges family members experience. It is only right that we acknowledge our special appreciation for them this month during the Armed Forces YMCA's Military Family Month.

With a tradition that dates back to the Pilgrims who arrived on this continent in 1620, the Continental Congress declared the first national American Thanksgiving in 1777 following the victory over the British at Saratoga. After many years of on and off national recognition of the holiday, President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, declared the last Thursday of November as a national Thanksgiving holiday. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, our 32nd President, officially moved the celebration to the fourth Thursday of November.

I hope all of you can take time during the Thanksgiving holiday to reflect upon the values and principles that make our nation great. This month also provides us an opportunity to show our gratitude for the blessings we enjoy in a free and prosperous country.

November also serves as an important time to remind ourselves of the importance of security and safety. The potential for war and acts of terrorism daily threaten the safety and security we have known for decades. This month signals the beginning of the holiday season, a time when the accident rate rises, particularly the privately owned vehicle accident rate. I encourage each of you to wear your seatbelts, avoid drinking and driving, obey the rules of the road, properly maintain your vehicles, take frequent rest breaks, and stay alert while driving. I hope you all attended the special programs being conducted at each location with the theme, "Security and Safety Awareness: Now More Than Ever."

As I look back over the past 2½ years as your commanding general, I reflect with pride on our many accomplishments. I salute each of you for the day in and day out dedication to SMDC and the Army. Your performance gives me great cause to be optimistic and encouraged about the future. Thank you for your contributions and support.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

Reading our commanding general's message for this month, I am reminded of how desperate things were when President Lincoln first proclaimed our national Thanksgiving holiday.

In late 1863, after three years of horrible warfare, our nation seemed no closer to victory, reunion and emancipation than it had been when the southern states first rebelled. Hundreds of thousands had died, almost uncounted monies had been expended, yet powerful Confederate armies were still in the field. An area larger than Europe minus Russia was still in rebellion against federal authority. A federal army had been heavily defeated and was besieged in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Yet Abraham Lincoln gave thanks, and guided the nation to give thanks for bounty and growth, for wealth and power.

So should we give thanks for what we have been given these past two years. For bounty and growth, for wealth and power.

For our nation and the opportunities it offers to us all: To rise as high as our abilities and values will take us.

For the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers, civilians and families. For those who serve in harm's way each day ... for their blood and stress spent on our behalf.

For the vigilance that has prevented further strikes against our land and our families.

For victory in the last two campaigns against vicious terrorism and rogue states.

For steady progress in developing opportunities for the people of Afghanistan and Iraq to find their way to prosperity, responsible government and full membership in the world community.

For the brilliant warfighting leadership of such officers as Franks, McKiernan and Wallace.

For our own leaders, Joseph and Lydia Cosumano.

For what we will do for our nation in the coming years — we will transform the Space and Missile Defense Command, and we will contribute even more to the global war on terrorism.

Like those who came before us and on whose shoulders we stand as we defend this great nation, let us give thanks in these times of great danger and uncertainty. Let us also carry on, so that our descendents may give thanks in the midst of their crises and trials.

ON POINT!



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Please direct letters and comments to:
U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command
ATTN: Editor, **The Eagle**, P.O. Box 1500,
Huntsville, AL 35807-3801

Phone (256)955-1151 (DSN 645) FAX: 645-1214
e-mail: EagleEditor@smdc.army.mil

Publisher.....LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.
Director, Public Affairs.....William M. Congo
Editor.....Debra Valine
Assistant Editor.....Becky Proaps

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Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Words from the top on space ...

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld spoke to soldiers at a town hall meeting held at Fort Carson, Colo., Oct. 7. Rumsfeld was present for the NATO conference held locally. More than 40 soldiers, civilians and contractors from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Colorado Springs office attended the open-air town hall event. Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Sprague of SMDC asked the Secretary's opinion of space capabilities used by warfighters during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Rumsfeld responded, "I am continually impressed by the advantage given to our warriors by space capabilities. Space is still amazingly new in the sense that we are not yet fully integrated, but the capabilities we have are truly impressive, as is the professionalism our military members have shown in bringing space to the front."

What We Think

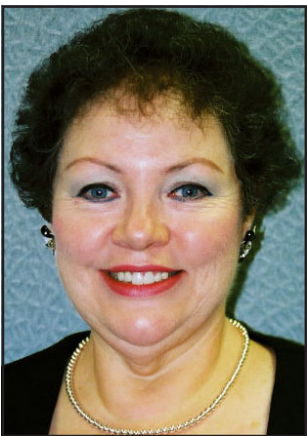
The Eagle asks:

What are you thankful for?



Carol D. Garth
Secretary, Phoenix Services
Huntsville, Ala.

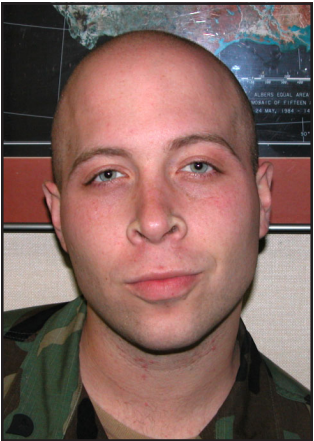
I have so many things to be thankful for. On Aug. 4, I had the R/NY Gastric Surgery, and I have lost 70 pounds. I am amazed at how much better I feel. I am thankful and blessed for the opportunity to have survived the surgery successfully. In having the surgery done, I am now on the receiving end of enjoying a healthier life and lifestyle. I am also thankful that God has given me two wonderful children, and a home to call my own. I am thankful for family and friends. I am most appreciative to God for blessing me with my mother, who passed away in April 2002 of breast cancer. My mother was my foundation, and she was a strong and beautiful woman.



Rosemary Cuadros
Human Resource Management Specialist
FA 40 Proponent Office
Arlington, Va.

Most of all, I thank God to be alive with so many bad things happening in the world and for being born an Amercian. I enjoy traveling to see other places in the world and how people live but it always makes me thankful to come home to this beautiful country of ours. I'm thankful for the lifestyle that we, as Americans, are able to choose for ourselves and enjoy because of the efforts of so many good, hard working, caring people and to be working for an organization that defends our country and strives for excellence.

I'm thankful for the support of my loving wife who sticks with me through the good and bad times.



Spc. Ramon Benitez
D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion,
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Donna H. Davis
Chief, Civilian Personnel Division
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1
Huntsville, Ala.

I am most thankful to my God who has been so good to me and my family. I am blessed with a wonderful family — a son, a husband, both parents, and seven terrific brothers and sisters and their families — who are all in relatively good health. Also, I am very thankful for my job and the good/kind people with whom I work.



Diane Schumacher
Executive Assistant
to the Commanding General
Arlington, Va.

What am I thankful for? I am grateful to God for my faith, my family and my good health.

SMDC sees many changes during Cosumano's time as commander

By Debra Valine
Editor, *The Eagle*

(Editor's note: Some information contained in this article appeared previously in *The Eagle*.)

On Nov. 18, LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. will relinquish command of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Strategic Command in a change of command ceremony and special retirement review at 10 a.m. at Fort Myer, Va. MG Larry Dodgen has been nominated to be his successor. This ceremony will bring to a close Cosumano's 35-year military career.

When he assumed command in April 2001, Cosumano had a vision. He wanted the command to normalize space, provide layered force protection for commanders in chief throughout the world, and develop soldiers and civilians with technical and leadership skills to support the Objective Force of the 21st Century.

"Our challenge is to continue providing the expertise, research and work that will move the nation closer to the ability to field a missile defense capable of protecting American citizens and deployed forces against missile attacks," Cosumano said in his column in *The Eagle* in June 2001.

In just two years, SMDC has made great progress in fulfilling that vision.

"I wanted to make the command more operationally focused," Cosumano said. "And I wanted to improve the command's team relationship. I wanted the operational and materiel development sides to work more closely together." SMDC reorganized in mid-2003 from having separate staffs in three locations to a single staff to support the command.

In 2001, the United States did not have a single system that would protect deployed warfighters, allies and coalition partners, and citizens. The Administration made a commitment to missile defense, looking to a multi-layered architecture to counter threats in all phases of their flight: boost, midcourse and terminal. Cosumano predicted at that time the Army would be responsible for the ground-based portion of the midcourse

segment.

Work on a ground-based midcourse defense test bed at Fort Greely, Alaska, started in June 2002. Later, in December 2002, the test bed overview was changed and the command was directed to have an Initial Deployment Operational (IDO) capability in October 2004.

"The deployment of the ground-based midcourse defense is timely," Cosumano said. "Years ago when we thought about building a system to protect the United States, we had projected an uncertain world. We had the foresight to predict the world we are in today — certainly not to the scale of 9-11 — but in the circumstances we are in today. We are threatened by non-nation states such as Al Qaeda and nation states that do not agree with our ideas of democracy and freedom.

"The ground-based midcourse defense program is on schedule with operations and training to become operational in 2004," Cosumano said. "It is the first step of a global integrated missile defense system that will allow seamless protection from region to homeland. It is a joint system in that the Army is just one of the participants. The Navy will provide early warning and the Air Force will provide satellite- and ground-based early warning."

To help meet the manpower requirement, SMDC stood up the first ever Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade, part of the Colorado Army National Guard, Oct. 16.

Work on ground-based midcourse defense is just one area where SMDC has been transforming into a command that can support the modern day warfighter with space-based products and the Army go-to command for the U.S. Strategic Command.

When SMDC was named the Army Service Component Command for STRATCOM in January 2003, its mission areas grew in scope and depth from three mission areas to five, taking on a global nature. SMDC's mission areas include global strike, space operations, integrated missile defense, and strategic information operations, with Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) as the enabler.

"The greatest honor the command has been bestowed is being named the Army Service Component Command for STRATCOM," Cosumano said. "SMDC was selected based upon performance in current and past operations and its ability to not only develop but field and support high-tech equipment. We are appropriately recognized to be the service component command to STRATCOM."

Taking on the increased responsibility meant technologies needed to be developed and put into the hands of the warfighters, and people needed to be trained to use them.

Many technologies have been transferred from SMDC to the Program Executive Office for Air, Space and Missile Defense. "Hit to kill" technology used in current anti-tactical ballistic missiles was originated in Huntsville's Technical

Center to include the Patriot (PAC3), which saw significant action in the war with Iraq. Another capability being developed — and used in the Afghanistan theater of operations — is Zeus, a laser mounted on a HUMVEE that detonates unexploded surface ordnances. Others include the Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL)/Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser (MTHL), the Medium Extended Area Defense System (MEADS), Theater High

Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS), Tactical Exploitation System (TES), and Grenadier BRAT, along with the Army Space Program Office.

"Transferring technologies and capabilities to PEO-ASMD allows those technologies to soon be in the hands of the service members to enhance their warfighting ability," Cosumano said. "Our units are becoming smaller but more agile and lethal through the technologies being developed in

Huntsville."

In addition to developing the space-based technologies and capabilities, SMDC stood up the 193rd Space Support Battalion and developed a program to train space officers. Army space officers are a key asset to the ground forces. To date, four classes of space officers have graduated and been assigned to duty supporting combatant commanders worldwide. They support commanders to leverage space for ground warfighters around the world.

"Ground warfighters must be able to see first, understand first and then finish decisively," Cosumano said. "Space will enable this by providing near real-time navigation, communication, weather, imagery, missile warning and intelligence.

"The space operators are being received as members of the combined arms teams to which they are assigned," he said. "Space operators are deployed with division and corps teams in the areas of operations. They are becoming key members of the teams that are providing key capabilities that enable the current forces. I think space operators will become more important as the years go on."

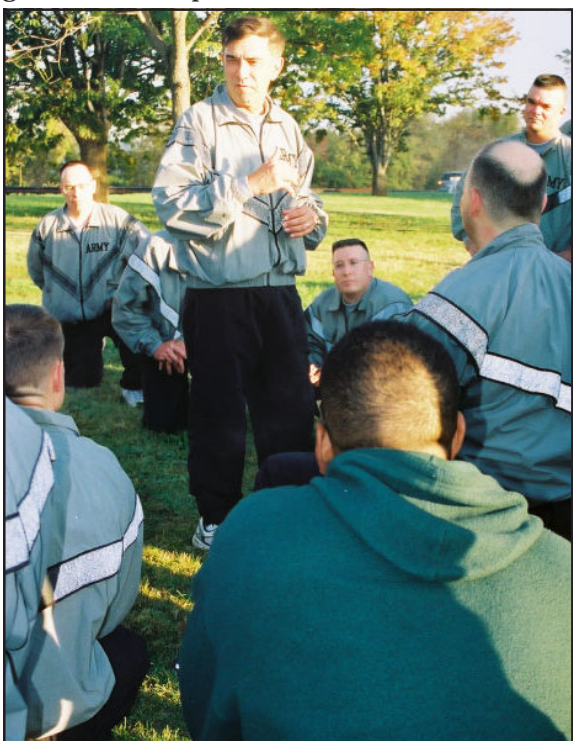
Looking back over his tenure as commander of SMDC, Cosumano said he is most proud of the performance by the command's soldiers, civilians and contractors in OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in Iraq. "The team came together to support these operations and made a huge difference in the fight. We deployed and supported every operational element of the command, to include our reserve components," he said.

"The time has just flown by," Cosumano said, not only of his time with SMDC, but of his 35 years in the Army.

"It has been a great opportunity to serve with some of the finest people I have ever met at every assignment along the way," Cosumano said. "At each assignment, I am sure I have gained more than I gave. Each one has its own special memories for me, my wife and our children. We are honored to have served for all these years."



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.



Photos by Debra Valine

After the fun run Oct. 30, LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. thanked his Arlington, Va., staff for their support and dedication.

Civilian News

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season goes through Dec. 31

The Thrift Savings Plan open season is your chance to start or change the amount of contributions to your TSP accounts. The Personnel Office has the TSP election forms or a copy of the form can be downloaded from the Forms and Publications section of the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov. Your contributions will be made automatically from your pay each pay period.

Federal Employees Health Benefit Program open season ends Dec. 8

This is the open season for the 2004 Federal Employees Health Benefit Program. For more information, go to www.opm.gov/insure/health/index.asp.

DFAS officials caution against look-alike sites

Officials are cautioning the 2 million military and civilian users of myPay to use only the official Web site when accessing pay account information. Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers, who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) or the Department of Defense. The DFAS myPay Web site also contains information on military pay and benefits, and can be found at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

MyPay offers electronic W-2s

All current myPay and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) civilian employees who request or already have a myPay Personal Identification Number (PIN) and access myPay will now automatically receive an electronic W-2. The electronic method is now the primary means of delivery for all DFAS civilians with a customized myPay PIN. Users may elect to receive a printed W-2 by mail by choosing the hard copy option through myPay before Dec. 1. For more information, see <http://www.military.com>

Flexible Spending Account covers non-prescription meds in 2004

Federal employees in the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program can use their FSA's to pay for non-prescription medication, starting Jan. 1, 2004. A September IRS ruling in October qualifies over-the-counter drugs for reimbursement through employer-sponsored FSAs. These include such medicines as decongestants, antihistamines and other frequently used medication. OPM sponsors the FSA program for federal workers. It also covers federal workers' children and other dependents as well.

The program began in July and its next open season for additional enrollments began Nov. 10 and runs through Dec. 8. There currently are two types of FSA's. The kind to which this ruling applies is the Health Care FSA, through which employees may use pre-tax allotments to pay for certain health care expenses that are not reimbursed by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The Health Care FSA's can be used for any other source of insurance that is not claimed on federal income tax returns. The maximum amount that can be set aside in any tax year is \$3,000, and the minimum is \$250.

Military News

GI Bill benefits rise

The "new" Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) is available for active duty and veterans to help with education costs, and can provide up to 36 months of education benefits. If you're a full-time student enrolled in a regionally or nationally accredited college or university, as of Oct. 1, 2003, you can get up to \$985 a month to cover education benefits, including high-tech or vocational-technical programs. This adds up to a total benefit of over \$35,000 — and these benefits are increasing every year. For more information on GI Bill Payment Rates, visit www.military.com/Resources. For more information on military-friendly colleges and learning programs, see www.military.com/Education.

New, improved scholarship search

Service members, veterans and members of their families can now search for education scholarships that fit their particular needs at Military.com. The improved Scholarship Search system contains more than 1,000 scholarships worth millions of dollars, and includes details on individual scholarship eligibility, monetary amount and deadlines. Visit the Web at www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/newsearch

Frequent-flier miles can now be donated to troops

Travelers can donate frequent-flier miles to help troops on leave from Iraq reach their destinations through Operation Hero Miles. Service members participating in the two-week "rest and recuperation" leave program are flown free to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, or Baltimore-Washington International Airport by the Defense Department, but must pay for connecting flights from and back to those ports. The Atlanta and Dallas-Fort Worth airports were added to the program Nov. 1, said Rhonda Paige, chief of strategic communications, G-1, Army Well-Being Division.

The Hero Miles Web site lists participating airlines and provides information on how to donate frequent-flier miles and how soldiers can receive complimentary tickets. Delta, Southwest and Alaska Airlines/Horizon Airlines have joined the operation. For more information, go to www.heromiles.org/. (American Forces Press Service)

Web site offers help on PCS moves

Army News Service reports the frustrations that sometimes accompany reassignment moves may become a thing of the past, with the introduction of a new Web site designed to consolidate the various housing sites into one. The Army Housing OneStop at www.onestoparmy.com is now accessible and provides a variety of useful information to soldiers, whether they are veteran movers or newcomers. For more information, go to www4.army.mil/ocpa/read. For more guides and tips on relocation and relocation discounts, see www.military.com/Resources

New APO Zips for soldiers in Iraq

The U.S. Military Postal Service has assigned new geographic zip codes for units and personnel serving in Iraq, according to Army News Service. The intent of the new zip codes is to decrease the time it takes for service members and civilian employees to receive their mail, officials said, as well as to improve postal service throughout Iraq. V Corps and 3rd COSCOM units currently using zip codes 09302 and 09372 will now be given a new zip code based on geography. To see a listing of the new geographic zip codes, go here: www.military.com/NewsContent?file=usa1_101503.



Photo by Dennis Plummer

Col. Gary Baumann, commander of the newly activated Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade, accepts the brigade's flag from LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, at a ceremony 'standing up' the nation's first such unit. Framing the two are, left to right, GMD Brigade Command Sgt. Major Daniel Marques and Air Force Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, adjutant general of the Colorado National Guard. The brigade will be manned by both National Guard and active component soldiers.

GMD Brigade

Continued from Page 1

Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center.

Another component of the brigade, the Alaska Army National Guard Missile Defense Space Battalion, will be activated in December. It will provide operational control over ground-based interceptors located in Alaska.

LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), and Air Force Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, adjutant general of the Colorado National Guard, hosted the ceremony.

Welcoming the new brigade, Cosumano addressed the crowd of state and local politicians, military service members and their families.

"The missile defense strategy of the 20th century was largely based on the concept that rational countries won't attack each other. We've learned in the 21st century that those theories don't apply anymore. Hostile states, and even non-state hostile groups, now either have or are working on long-range missiles. This activation today of an important part of our homeland defense strategy allows us to defend against that threat," said Cosumano.

"The technology and the organizations have changed dramatically to meet the current threat. The technology has changed from nuclear kill to hit-to-kill. In two wars now, Patriot has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that we can hit a missile with a missile, despite naysayers of past years. Now we can do it in space.

"As to organizational change — where we're having this ceremony, in front of the U.S. Northern Command building, and close to both the Army and Air Force space buildings, is indicative of the joint nature of this effort to protect our great nation. We'll be depending on Navy Aegis missile cruisers, and on the early warning architecture of the Air Force, as well as the superb skills and training of our own

soldiers.

"And within the GMD Brigade itself, we see the melding of active component service men and women with Colorado National Guardsmen. The Guard is a perfect fit for this mission, with the genesis of their role in national defense dating back to the 1600s. That makes them a natural for this mission, just as Colorado, the hub and nerve center of Space for the nation, is the most logical site for command and control."

Whitney spoke next, expounding on the mission of the Guard.

"We are tremendously proud to be part of this mission. It continues in direct descent the role of the Guardsman in protecting our nation. The only difference between that mission of 200 plus years ago and now is that, with our current technology, we can defend more rapidly and accurately. Even being in space isn't new, we've been in space over 10 years now. In all three buildings behind me, you'll find both Air Force and Army National Guardsmen. I congratulate all the members of the new Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade, and wish them well as they begin a new tradition of excellence."

GMD is designed to attack and kill any incoming missile in the "middle" phase or "midcourse" of its trajectory, after the boost or launch, and before it reaches re-entry to impact, thereby destroying that missile in space. Working in concert with the early warning architecture, provided in part by the Air Force and the Navy's Aegis missile cruisers, GMD will launch a booster missile toward a target's predicted location releasing a "kill vehicle" on the path of an incoming target. The kill vehicle uses data from the ground-based radars and its own on-board sensor to collide with the target.

While the GMD Brigade is assigned to SMDC, its operators execute the decision/directive from Northern Command to destroy a ballistic missile threat. The

brigade also has responsibilities to both NORTHCOM and U.S. Strategic Command. Command relationships are still being worked out at the four-star level due to the possible trans-regional nature of the threat.

Approximately 90 personnel will be located at the Headquarters. Operators are Air Defense qualified soldiers and are supported by a brigade staff (Personnel, Intelligence, Operations, Supply and Communications.)

The 110 soldiers who will be located at the battalion include air defense operators, force protection guard force and staff personnel. Actual interceptors will be located at Fort Greely, Alaska. The battalion will have not only the operational mission, but the test bed mission as well, to ensure continuation of development.

Alaska was chosen as a site for interceptors due to requirements of the system. Geometry and the arc of any missile in flight over the globe make Alaska a perfect choice. There will also be interceptors located at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Col. Gary Baumann, commander of the newly activated brigade, spoke with conviction about his unit and its mission.

"In the 1970's, we briefly had the capability to defend ourselves against the threat of ballistic missiles. At that point, intelligence indicated that nine countries possessed such capabilities. Today, that number has increased threefold. This unit's activation is a small step toward ensuring the safety of our nation. In December 2002, the President of the United States directed that we push the fielding of this system up from 2006, to 2004.

"I believe we are on target to meet those goals. Our soldiers, chosen from the best across the state and nation, are well-trained, excited and looking forward to the challenge, and have been working tirelessly to be prepared for it."

Alabama motorcycle ride commemorates Trail of Tears

By Debra Valine
Editor, *The Eagle*

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Each September, tens of thousands of motorcycle riders join together to commemorate the Trail of Tears — the forced removal of Native Americans from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Waterloo, Ala.

This year's ride on Sept. 20 drew an estimated 100,000 motorcyclists from all over the country. At noon the convoy of motorcycles stretched 35 miles from



Erica and Bob Hill

Madison, Ala., just west of Huntsville, to Gurley, Ala., east of Huntsville.

The original Trail of Tears follows U.S. Highway 72 and I-565 through Northern Alabama. At one point, the trail runs near the SMDC complex on Wynn Drive in Huntsville. Several U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command employees joined in.

Bob Hill, an engineer in the Battle Lab-Huntsville and his daughter Erica, 9, drove up to Chattanooga Sept. 19 so they could be near the front of the group.

"We were very close to the front," Erica said. "Once the VIPs came in, we were the fourth bike," Hill added.

"We got to the start point at around 4:30 a.m.," Hill said. "It was a long wait for the ride to start at 8 a.m."

Hill had ridden the trail twice previously, but it was the first time for Erica, who said she can't wait to ride again next year.

"Erica had always wanted to go on the Trail of Tears ride, but she was not old enough," Hill said. An added incentive was that Erica had been studying the Trail of Tears in her social studies class.

SMDC newcomer Lt. Col. Mike Zarbo, the executive officer for Maj. Gen. John Urias, had just bought an Indian motorcycle to scratch a "mid-life crisis itch." Two days before the motorcycle ride, he found out about it.

"If you have never seen 100,000 or so motorcycles ride by, well, it was just spectacular," Zarbo said. "I just happened to be on my bike when the riders passed through Huntsville so I jumped on and rode with them for about 15 miles. It is definitely something my wife and I plan to do next year."

Zarbo said he had been on long motorcycle rides before, but nothing compared to the Trail of Tears ride.

"This ride was very impressive. It was absolutely overwhelming. I was not prepared to see miles and miles of motorcycles. Everyone was very professional and courteous. It was well organized, very safe and very professionally run."

Allen Alexander, another SMDC employee, had been trying make the ride for about five years.

"This is the first year that events all came together the right way so that I could ride," Alexander said. "My 10-year-old son went with me. I guess the thing that impressed me the most was the camaraderie between the bikers."

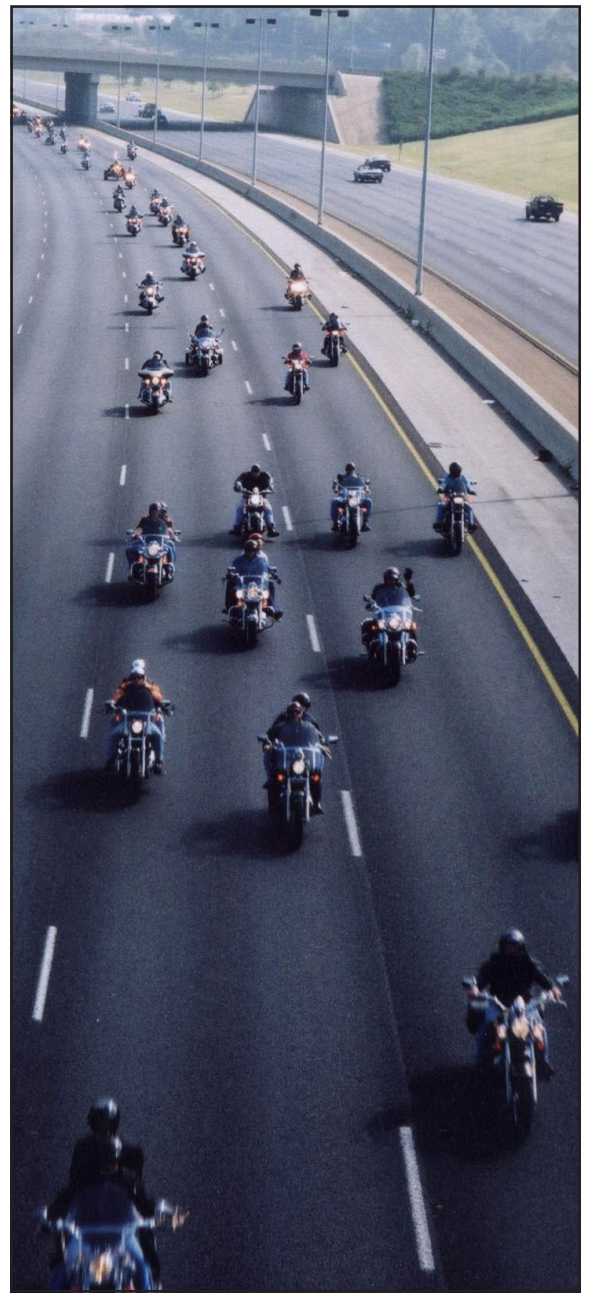


Photo by Debra Valine

At one point, motorcycles stretched for more than 35 miles along I-565 in Northern Alabama.

Everyone had the attitude of support and fellowship.

"Once while I was stopped at a gas station so that my son could change into long pants, another group of riders thought we were in trouble and stopped to assist," Alexander said. "Growing up in Alabama, this kind of concern was always the norm. But in recent years, it has been the exception, not the rule. Not so in this event. It was the rule."

"I was also impressed at the amount of knowledge concerning the plight of our ancestors. I thought I had a good knowledge base of the event that this ride commemorates, but others knew much more than I, and the details were always a prime topic in any discussion. This was not just an opportunity for a large number of riders to get together, it really was a time of remembrance. It was a great experience that I plan to repeat."



Lt. Col. Mike Zarbo stands in a sea of motorcycles at one of the scheduled stops in Madison, Ala.

Original Trail of Tears called for the forced removal of all Eastern Indians

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 called for the voluntary or forcible removal of all Indians from the eastern United States to the state of Oklahoma. May 1838 marked the deadline for voluntary Native removal.

The military was prepared to use force and did so under the command of General Winfield Scott. General Scott ordered the roundup and removal of more than 17,000 Cherokees who refused to leave. So began the Cherokee "Trail of

Tears," one of the darkest episodes in relations between the United States and Native Americans.

The process was swift and brutal. Detachments of soldiers arrived at every Cherokee house and drove men, women and children out of their homes with only the clothes on their backs. They were placed in concentration camps where conditions were horrendous. Food and supplies were limited and disease was rampant. Many perished.

By late June 1838, the upper Tennessee River had become

too low for navigation due to a drought. The U.S. government hired wagon master J.C.S. Hood to transport 1,070 Native Americans by foot and wagon from Ross' Landing in Chattanooga, Tenn., to what is now Waterloo, Ala. — about 230 miles. Much of the journey followed what is now U.S. Highway 72.

Upon reaching Waterloo, the survivors were in despicable condition. Migration had to be suspended until the river was high enough for navigation. Many died in Waterloo and others escaped

into the hills. Many area residents can trace their Native American ancestry to those who fled.

Estimates of as many as 4,000 deaths occurred because of this forced removal of civilized Native Americans from their rightful homes.

In the end, members of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole Nations suffered the same fate as the Cherokees.

For more information, visit the Web at www.al-tn-trailoftears.org.

Awards/Promotions

Performance Awards

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Willard L. Schick, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Branch T
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SMDC sponsors trip to dedicate monument to Makin Raiders

Surviving Raider recounts assault on

Editor's note: Ben Carson was a member of Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson's 2nd Raider Battalion, the Marine Corps command unit that made the first American assault on Japanese-held territory in World War II. That was at Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands, Aug. 17-18, 1942.

He has been active for nearly 50 years in the effort to repatriate the remains of Raiders killed at Makin and to recognize the sacrifice of the Raider prisoners beheaded at Kwajalein.

Carson joined the Marine Corps in December 1941, six months after high school graduation. He was 18, and the Japanese had just attacked Pearl Harbor. With a trainload of other recruits, he arrived at boot camp in San Diego, Calif., on New Year's Day 1942.

After boot camp, Carson volunteered for what he heard was "a suicide unit some nutty major was setting up to infiltrate Japanese-held territory."

His "entrance exam" with Capt. James Roosevelt, son of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, consisted of three questions:

"What did you do in civilian life?"

"I was a farmer."

"Can you swim?"

"Yes, our farm was on a lake."

"Can you march 30 miles with full pack on a cup of rice?"

"I'm sure I can if the rest can."

Selected for duty with the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, Carson embarked on five months of rigorous training at several sites: a farm near San Diego; San Clemente Island, off the California coast; and Camp Catlin and Barbers Point, in Hawaii.

In August, after having their regulation khaki shirts and pants dyed coal black, Companies A and B of the 2nd Raider Battalion were loaded aboard the submarines Argonaut and Nautilus for an unknown destination.

We know now it was Makin. On Nov. 11, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command sponsored a trip to Kwajalein Atoll to dedicate a monument to the Makin Raiders. Six survivors of the 1942 assault made the trip.

By Ben Carson

We arrived off Makin on the afternoon of Aug. 16, 1942. I was passing through the main control room (of the submarine Argonaut) and noticed a lot of activity around the periscope, so I eased over to learn what had been sighted.

A submarine officer was viewing Makin, and other officers and sailors were taking turns looking. One officer said, "Hey, Raider, you wanna look? There's where

you're going tomorrow morning!" I saw palm trees, a beach and lots of water.

There was considerable uneasiness among the Raiders trying to get some sleep that evening. When 3 a.m. arrived, we were fed breakfast and told to be ready to disembark at 4 a.m.

The sub surfaced, and fresh air rushed in as the hatches were opened. We had to exit up the ladders by boat teams, since our rubber boats were stowed deflated in the tubes used to load torpedoes.

We finally got the boat inflated and slid it over the side. The sea was running very high, and our boat disappeared down the side of the sub about 15 feet.

On-the-job training in the dark

None of us had ever made a rubber-boat landing from a submarine before, but here we were attempting to board rubber boats from a completely dark submarine deck, with a sea running at least 15 feet and possibly much more.

Each time the boat returned near the level of the sub deck, someone from our crew would jump in. Finally, I lined up with the boat as it started its trip up to deck level and launched out for it.

The motor was soaked, the boat was full of water and we had lost two paddles out of 11. We began paddling and bailing and headed for some boats rendezvousing shoreward.

Rubber boats unmanageable in surf

Finally the arm wave to shore was given, and everyone bent to the task of paddling sodden rubber boats toward the surf marked by a luminescent line on the horizon.

We were not prepared for the action those first rollers gave us. As our boat rode up the first wave, we were turned sideways and ended up making a full circle before we headed down the leeward side of the wave.

Everybody in the boat was doing his damndest to keep the bow of the boat pointed to the beach, but we made several other complete turns before our surf trip was over.

Huge wave hit us

The nearer we got to the beach, the more each wave bent the boat. About 50 feet from shore, a huge wave hit us, and I flew over the stern into the surf. I grabbed a mouthful of air and rapidly was dragged toward shore by the surf.

After two or three of these rises to the surface, I was surprised to find that I could stand up with my head above the water. I finally struggled to shore, and two Raiders grabbed me and walked me up the beach.

Gunnery Sgt. "Pappy" Lang was standing on the beach directing Raiders to their primary targets. He indicated to me to head down the beach. I finally caught up with my special squad, and directly, we could see the outline of Government House. I was surprised to see it was just as described to us

during practice. I cautiously approached and looked in — the place was abandoned. I sped around the corner and was waved on.

All hell broke loose

Just then, I heard a Browning automatic rifle bark, and moments later all hell broke loose. I was hurrying to get up where the action was, alternately running and seeking shelter. Up ahead, I could see a truck stopped in the road and scattered bodies.

I kept inching up toward a clump of mangrove trees and passed the body of a Marine Raider Tommygunner, who apparently had been in a terrible fire fight. Every one of his ammo clips was empty and he had been hit by a volley of bullets that tore up his chest.

This was my first encounter with a dead body outside a coffin, and I remember thinking for the first time, "This game is for keeps."

I crawled up to the edge of the mangrove trees, and a corporal from A Company was lying there, nursing a bullet wound in his upper left shoulder. He attempted to point out the location of a sniper up in a coconut tree, but every time he or I would move to get a better look, another round would be fired in our direction.

The corporal suggested I find a clear path through the mangrove trees and have a grenade. After some very careful crawling around, I found a path and let a grenade fly.

Right about then, there wasn't any firing taking place, and I heard the pop of the cap that armed the grenade and also heard it bouncing off the mangrove brush. I heard it explode and was disappointed that it made such a small racket.

After half an hour more of trying to locate the sniper, I heard a shout to my rear and recognized Lang motioning us to withdraw. He had been shot in the arm and was wearing a white bandage and sling.

Japanese torpedo bomber arrives

Sporadic firing was coming from beyond the breadfruit tree as we pulled back toward Government House, which now was being used to shelter the wounded. I was dashing from coconut tree to coconut tree as we were pulling back, and all of a sudden, a Japanese torpedo bomber appeared just above the trees, strafing the road between me and the leeward beach. We had been told not to fire at the planes.

I was really glad when that plane got past me without hitting anything, when all of a sudden, the lead was flying again. There was a rear machine gunner, and he was getting his jollies blasting the road as the plane pulled up.

There was the sound of bombs dropping beyond the breadfruit tree, and an occasional shot could still be heard in that direction, but the shooting part of the raid was over around 3 p.m. on Aug. 17.

We were told to slowly withdraw, with an established rear-guard action, to the beach area where we had landed early that morning. Darkness began to fall, and we slowly made our way to the beach.

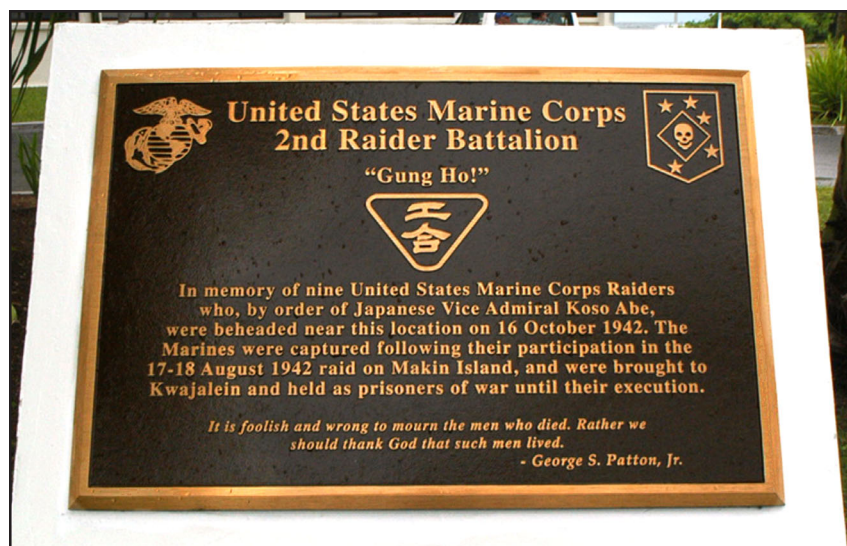
The withdrawal took about an hour, and I was on the final protective line when we got to the beach area. I and about 12 other Raiders were given specific instruction on when we could finally board our boats and leave the island. These instructions included a flashlight signal indicating that all others had cleared the island.

Wounded dumped into surf

The wounded were loaded aboard the rubber boats, lying lengthwise over the center seats, with the



Ben Carson



Japanese-held atoll in Gilbert Islands

paddlers straddling the sides. The additional weight of the wounded in the fully manned craft proved too much. Many of the boats rounded the curl in the very high surf, and everyone was dumped. Many tales of valiant rescue efforts in circumstances like this were repeated that evening.

As the boats upset, the crews' weapons were lost, as well as all equipment and supplies used by medical personnel.

It didn't take long before Carlson was aware that things were not working out as he had planned. Added to this was the fact that he was not aware that our holding force was in place on shore.

When a Japanese patrol approached the beach in front of our force, a shootout ensued in which one of our men was wounded, and we killed three Japanese. Carlson later recorded this event as the low point of the raid.

'They're going to surrender'

Someone came by our position, crouched down low, and quietly blurted out the most terrible message I have ever been given: "Everybody's on their own now. They're going to surrender."

I turned to one of the rear-guarders and said, "Let's get out of here." I sent Pvt. Kuznewski to ask Carlson if we in the holding force could turn our weapons over to the worn-out Raiders on the beach and take a shot at the surf.

Permission was granted, and six of us from the holding force grabbed a rubber boat, stuffed the oars under the seats and proceeded to swim that boat through the surf and into the open ocean.

Since none of us was higher than a private first class, we had been given no instructions on sub recognition or any other information to guarantee our survival.

Fortunately, we heard the sound of a sub's diesel exhaust, and we headed in that direction. It was just breaking dawn when we arrived at the Nautilus.

When I climbed down the ladder to crew quarters, a corpsman handed me a tiny bottle and said, "For medicinal purposes only." I slugged down the contents, and in about five minutes, I was glassy-eyed from the brandy.

Sgt. Carroll was on board, recruiting volunteers for the rescue mission, but when he looked at me, he said, "Go get some sleep." That little shot of brandy saved my life. Sgt. Allard and the rest of the rescue crew were later strafed while shooting a line over the surf to pull out the boats bearing Raiders and the wounded.

Carlson violated Raider principles

Carlson violated every principle of Raider operations he had instilled in us during training. We were constantly hammered on to conduct patrols, probe for weak spots in the enemy forces, and always know more about the enemy forces than they knew about us.

Even we greenhorn privates could not believe that decisions were made on conjecture at the beach when we still had the capability to conduct at least one patrol.

Carlson appointed Capt. Ralph Coyte, my company commander, and Pvt. Willie McCall to carry a surrender message to the Japanese commander. Willie was a member of my squad. He told me later that the reason he was selected to accompany Coyte was that Carlson thought he could at least speak pidgin and maybe Japanese, because his mother was Filipina and his father was an Irish sailor.

Willie's remark that the only Japanese he knew was "sayonara" sort of sums up the whole surrender effort.

Coyte and Willie walked inland to a hut where a Japanese medical corpsman was smoking a cigarette with a local family. Through interpretation from the islander, Willie was able to convey the surrender message to the corpsman, who promptly left the hut.

Willie and Coyte stuck around until Coyte decided to return to the beach and tell Carlson what had transpired. Willie said he went outside the hut, picked up an Arisaki rifle from a dead Japanese, jacked a shell into the chamber and began walking around the battlefield.

Directly, he came upon a taro pit where three Japanese were hiding. Willie shot two of them and the third took off running. Willie nailed the third man on the run, and it turned out to be the corpsman he had given Carlson's surrender note to.

May be connected to beheading

To this day, Willie and a number of survivors of that raid believe that the presence of the surrender note in the pocket of a dead noncombatant was the basis for the Japanese decision to behead the Raiders on Kwajalein. We know that the note was recovered by the Sendai Unit that reoccupied the island because, on the way back to Pearl Harbor, the Nautilus picked up Tokyo Rose, who identified it in the surrender note.

I have known Willie McCall over a 57-year period, and I have no reason to question the veracity of his statements. After Willie took the dead corpsman's medical pack back to the beach so our doctors had something to minister to our wounded with, Carlson made the decision to leave the island from the harbor side to avoid the surf. That was done on the evening of Aug. 18, when the subs went to Flink Point.

Return trip uneventful

On board the Nautilus, I heard the klaxon announce that we were surfacing. Soon, I saw wounded being carried to bunks. Those would could not walk were zipped into heavy canvas coveralls with handles attached that permitted them to be lowered through the hatches.

Finally, Carlson came aboard, and we moved out of the anchorage to begin our return trip.

The morning we sailed into Pearl Harbor, we were permitted to stand on the deck of the Nautilus in a more or less "at ease" formation.

Every ship in Pearl Harbor welcomed us home

Every ship of the line in Pearl Harbor was turned out with formations on deck as

we sailed by. I didn't realize until much later that our return was the reason for the turnout.

I noticed a battle wagon with a large number "46" painted on the bow. I knew that was the USS Maryland — BB46 — and my brother was aboard. We had not seen each other for two years.

The Raiders were quickly loaded into trucks and taken to Camp Catlin, where we found our barracks just about the way we left it. We were told to clean up, dress in khaki and prepare for pay call and a six-day pass at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

The first day of my Royal Hawaiian vacation was spent traveling to Pearl Harbor and riding the liberty launch out to the USS Maryland to visit my brother. I was carrying a pistol that Cyrill Matelski had taken from the dead commander of the Japanese garrison at Makin. He loaned me the pistol to show my bother, who was a Navy gunner's mate.

As I climbed aboard the Maryland, the officer of the deck asked to inspect the pistol, which I was carrying in a holster. "This is a Japanese pistol – where did you get it?" he asked.

I went through the part of the Makin story I could tell, and the next thing I knew, I was on my way to the bridge, where I was introduced to the skipper. We talked a bit about the raid, and then he asked me what made me decide to visit the Maryland.

When I told him my brother was a gunner's mate in Division V, he had George paged. A chief called in to report that George Carson had gone to Honolulu to visit his brother, who had just returned from a raid on Makin, where 100 Japanese were killed and a lot of supplies destroyed.

About 5:30 p.m., my brother showed up, and we spent the first hour catching up on the two years' family gossip.

'You could get killed'

My bother got really serious and tried to get me to promise to get out of the Raiders. "You could get killed in that outfit," he said.

I reminded him the Raiders were well-trained, but even so, I promised to be careful.

Two years later, my brother died as a result of the accidental explosion of a smoke canister on the deck of the Maryland.



Firefighters share safety tips with Delta Junction kindergartners

By Joyce Duff
Fort Greely, Alaska

During Fire Prevention Month in October, children from the Delta Junction Elementary School kindergarten class visited the Fort Greely Fire Station.

Firefighters showed the children some of the emergency equipment on the fire trucks and the children were given the opportunity to climb through the cab of a fire truck.

After viewing the fire trucks and the station, firefighter David Leonard reviewed fire safety tips with the children. To top off a great visit the children were given a fire safety bag complete with candy, juice and stickers.



Photo by Joyce Duff

Firefighter William Mammay opens the compartments of a fire truck for the children from Janet Reiter's kindergarten class to view the equipment.

Grog anyone?

B Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, adds 'explosive' touch to dining out

By Spc. Stacy-Lyn
D. De La Hoz
Unit Reporter

FORT MEADE, Md. — B Co., 1st Satellite Control Battalion had the opportunity this fall to attend the post's Headquarters Command Battalion Dining Out at Club Meade.

The highlight of the evening, at least for B Co. members, was their unit's toxic contribution to the grog bowl — hydrazine monopropellant. To protect the bearer from any spillage while adding the "satellite fuel," Sgt. 1st Class David Combs entered wearing a protective mask and gloves while 1st Sgt. Joey

Thornburg explained the caustic additive to the rest of the attendees.

Thornburg gave the following speech while Combs added his concoction to the grog bowl:

"During the Civil War, Albert James Myer, an Army doctor, first conceived the idea of a separate, trained professional military signal service. He proposed that the Army use his visual communications system called 'wigwag.' Wigwag is nothing more than the use of semaphores (flags) for signaling. When the Army adopted his system on June 21, 1860, the Signal Corps was born with Myer being the first

and only Signal officer of his time.

"The Signal Corps has evolved tremendously since 1860," Thornburg said. "During and after the Civil War, it was responsible for constructing, maintaining and operating the electrical telegraph throughout the country. The National Weather Service was established under the Signal Corps. During the Spanish American War, we ran wire and cable to supply telephones in combat. We met the challenges of World War I with radio and World War II with radar. During the Korean War we brought wireless communications to

the battlefield. The Vietnam Conflict was a turning point. We introduced not only troposcatter communications but deployed the first satellite communications in combat. We were heavily involved in wireless and satellite communications during the Gulf War and Iraqi War. We keep on evolving from a single flag to 2.2 Gig of bandwidth throughput on our most advanced satellites of today.

"The commander and I thought, 'What could we offer at a dining out?' We pondered for weeks what to contribute to the infamous grog bowl," Thornburg said. "We thought about contributing a gallon of PCM grease, but didn't feel like it was a worthy enough contribution. We thought about a pint of Eb/No, but could not afford it with our budget. We decided to contribute something that we knew was abundant and cheap. So we sent our best HAZMAT team, I mean soldiers, to sunny Florida to visit NASA. We explained our situation and they were more than willing to donate to our cause.

"Ladies and gentlemen without further ado, Bravo Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion proudly contributes hydrazine monopropellant, otherwise known as satellite fuel!"

Staff Sgt. Richard Shutt, said, "Definitely the most entertaining part of the evening was when our first sergeant and Sgt. 1st Class Combs added the 'satellite propellant' to the grog bowl. It certainly put us 'Above the Rest!'"



Army photo

Soldiers and spouses of B Co., 1st SATCON Bn., enjoy a formal evening at Fort Meade's Headquarters Command Battalion Dining Out held on post.

Joint Tactical Ground Station-Pacific supports major exercise

By Lt. James Brown
U.S. Navy

OSAN AIR BASE, Korea — “Exercise, Exercise, Exercise” were the first words heard over the First Detect – First Report (FD/FR) network initiated during exercise Ulchi Focus Lens-03 after a simulated missile launch.

Joint Tactical Ground Stations-Pacific Command and Missile Defense Space Tool (MDST) teamed up this year to support the largest exercise on the Korean peninsula. The role of these two agencies during the exercise was threefold: to simulate single and multiple missile launches; to stimulate units on peninsula and within the PACOM theater to react by assuming the proper defensive posture; and to execute the appropriate operational plans on the peninsula and throughout the PACOM area.

The one- to two-week exercise tested the operational capabilities of the Sensor-to-Shooter early warning networks. Operators of JTAGS PAC — consisting of Navy and Army members — manned the Defense Red Switched Network (DRSN) monitoring the PACOM FD/FR network during this major simulation exercise. MDST executed the script.

What made this exercise unique for the operators this year



Army photo

Staff Sgt. John Peart, JTAGS PAC Operations NCO, conducts a First Detect - First Report call for an event as part of exercise Ulchi Focus Lens 03 conducted in Korea.

was their ability to support both real world and exercise activities simultaneously. MDST and JTAGS will team up again for the Reception Stationing Onward Integration Exercise-04 to be held in the spring.



Photo by Marco Morales

SMDC observes Hispanic Heritage Month

Gabe Nieto, vice president, NASA Programs, BAE Systems in Huntsville, Ala., explains to SMDC employees some of the many obstacles he faced as a child growing up in southern New Mexico. Nieto, also a pop music country singer, spoke at SMDC's observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month Oct. 14. After telling his unique and interesting story, he sang a couple of songs. As part of the event, the Equal Employment and Opportunity Office offered participants a chance to answer some questions in a Hispanic Trivia Contest. Two prizes were awarded, Beverly Wills of the Contracting and Acquisition Management Office was the first place winner and Patrick Tilley of the Technical Center was the second place winner.

C Co., 1st SATCON works to fortify junior leaders

By Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett Jr.
Unit Reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — 1st Sgt. Ralph Martin of Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, has developed a program to prepare the unit's future leaders for moving up the ranks.

Dubbed Junior Leader Development, or “JLD,” the program enables squad leaders to devote part of their Sergeant's Time Training to areas the junior leaders need to develop. The goal — to excel at the Primary Leadership Development Course.

Prompted by a move at Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army to potentially begin training non-promotable specialists at PLDC, Martin developed the JLD program to augment current training initiatives by focusing on drill and ceremonies, instructing physical fitness training and land navigation. These areas receive a large amount of attention at PLDC, and often cause students the most stress.

“Putting more focus on training in these three areas prior to PLDC can enable students to devote more time to other subjects that one can't prepare for in advance,” said Sgt. Shawn Michaud, a recent Commandant's List graduate from the 7th Army NCO Academy, PLDC.

Martin's goal is to proactively prepare his other junior leaders for even greater success.

To accomplish that end, squad leaders have been directed to incorporate three hours of uninterrupted training into their monthly training plans. Currently these plans include bi-weekly training from the

1st Satellite Control Battalion Quarterly Training Guidance, weekly Mission Essential Task List training, and Sergeant's Time Training.

Fortunately, much of the day-to-day business already supports this training.

At C Co., squad leaders are empowered to manage their squad's physical fitness program. Tying together the need to train junior leaders on instructing physical fitness training and maintaining physical readiness within the squad simultaneously accomplishes both training needs. Moreover, the responsibility of instructing physical training often gives soldiers the personal motivation they need to excel in physical readiness at PLDC and beyond.

Likewise, Sergeant's Time Training supports the focus on drill and ceremonies and land navigation by merging these tasks with the same training conducted with the remainder of the squad. By practicing drill and ceremonies as a squad, with the junior leaders in charge, cohesion is enhanced as well as the abilities of the junior leaders.

While shift work does not usually afford squad leaders the time needed to maintain the squad's abilities in drill and ceremonies, the JLD approach facilitates the needed time with already scheduled training.

Using resources from other local units, a course was developed that enables the junior leaders to hone their own land navigation skills, and begin teaching the younger soldiers the basics of map-reading and land navigation. The course at PLDC is generally one of the more difficult

elements, and the new JLD program now empowers the junior leaders for success rather than struggle.

In addition to stepping-up the level of training in these areas, squad leaders have also begun preparing PLDC packets for the junior leaders. Ultimately, the objective is to prepare the soldiers administratively as well as technically and tactically.

As the program develops over time, squad leaders will begin incorporating other areas in addition to the three pillars. Any soldier proud of wearing stripes and being a part of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps would agree that there is much more to being a sergeant than drill and ceremonies, physical fitness and land navigation.

Furthermore, the program doesn't serve only to prepare the junior leaders for PLDC — it acts to better them in the total soldier concept, incorporating a wide variety of training needs.

Spc. Cosme Lavalley is in the primary zone for promotion to sergeant, and is one of the targeted future junior leaders working to prepare themselves for the big step up into the NCO Corps.

“I expect the program will reinforce training that is often underutilized. I am really seeking to gain a deeper understanding of the JLD subject areas, and to improve on my abilities,” Lavalley said.

The program puts the focus on a foundation of quality and standardized training, while operating to continue building the core of every junior leader — the sergeant.

Chaplain uses experiences in OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM to reach others at prayer breakfast

By D.J. Montoya
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Terrorism, various personal problems and a sense of helplessness were the issues covered during a recent prayer breakfast sponsored by the 1st Space Brigade (Provisional) at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command – Colorado Springs.

The guest speaker for the event was Chaplain (Maj.) Andrew C. Meverden, assigned to the 2/135th General Support Aviation Battalion of the 89th Troop Command, Colorado Army National Guard (COANG). Meverden is one of only two chaplains in the entire COANG.

Addressing a group of early risers consisting of military and civilians from the command, as well as some curious next-door neighbors hailing from U.S. Air Force Space Command, Meverden's subject was, "When you've got problems that can't be solved."

Known to all as "Chaplain Andy," the reverend touched upon recent experiences as chaplain of the 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Kabul, Afghanistan, from August 2002 through July of this year.

"At different times in your life you are going to find yourself in the following kind of situation," Meverden said.

"You are going to be in the midst of a storm. A storm you didn't cause. One you cannot control and you have no choice but to wait out.

"These kinds of problems are the most difficult ones to face because they make us feel so helpless," he said. "This current period for those of us in the military, being faced with situations — ones we did not cause, or were forced into — sometimes relates to family separations. Other times it relates to hazardous duty. All we can do it wait out the storm."

Meverden added that other issues revolve around money, family, work and even pets. But the important thing to remember about all such problems is that they are only temporary in nature. Referring to himself as a wounded healer, Meverden said that he has been through the best and worst of life — witnessing much of both this past year in Afghanistan.

"You can endure anything if it will not last forever," he said. "That was the perspective I took when I said goodbye to my family here at Pete Field last year. It was 7,293 miles away. It was hard to leave my wife and children."

He also reminded the audience that the problems don't necessarily have to make one miserable. "We can live this life with a sense of hope and optimism." Meverden recounted growing up with a personal fear of the dark and how he dealt with it.

"It was our first night in Afghanistan and there was no electricity in Kabul. We had a little generator powering lights in the mess area. You take your food out about 50 feet away to eat it so the bugs don't get into the kitchen. And here I was standing with wire around us. We had about 800 new Afghan recruits whom we knew could possibly be infiltrators from Al Qaeda and the Taliban. And there I was without an assistant — chaplains are non-combatants. I didn't have a weapon. I was standing in pitch-black darkness in Afghanistan. For some strange reason,



Army photo

Chaplain (Maj.) Andrew C. Meverden, Colorado Army National Guard, teaches English to members of a village in Afghanistan. Meverden spoke recently of his experiences at a prayer breakfast held at SMDC-Colorado Springs.

from that moment on, I lost my fear of the dark. And then ... other things happened and I lost other fears."

He then gave an example of how tragedies can be turned into blessings. Dec. 14 and 16, 2002, are two days Chaplain Andy said he will never forget. He witnessed a live fire exercise between U.S. forces and Afghan friendly forces that led to a horrible tragedy — the accidental death of five local boys.

Despite extensive precautions to clear the area prior to the exercise, 10 boys came over the targeted area on top of a mountain and found themselves in the line of artillery fire.

After the first barrage hit, five of them lay dying. When villagers and personnel from the camp realized what had happened and took action, it was too late. One boy died on the mountain. Two died on the stretchers coming down. Another died in the ambulance. A Special Forces medic from camp saved the fifth boy.

"It was a horrible tragedy," Meverden said. "That night the soldier who set the tubes — a Special Forces heavy weapons expert who had been in Somalia during Black hawk Down — said to me 'Chaplain, when I was in Somalia I had to shoot a 13-year-old boy because he would not put down an AK47 that was pointed at us. I swore I'd never let myself be put in that situation again. Today I believe I'm responsible for the death of four boys. I did not come here to kill boys. I came here to get rid of terrorists.' And he handed me his weapon, put his head in his hands and cried."

The bodies were autopsied, cleaned up and placed in body bags. "I was there when the fathers and uncles came to claim the bodies. I learned to say in their mother tongue, 'I'm very sorry.'"

In a situation where understanding and forgiveness between both sides was necessary, it became apparent there was a problem. There was a sense of ignorance of local customs, hurt feelings and bureaucratic hand tying that gave the wrong perception to the outside world.

Chaplain Andy used his skills and knowledge of the area's customs, in addition to what he considers divine

assistance, to help aid the healing process and bring closure to the incident.

Before the accident, he had worked teaching English in the local village. One of the boys killed was a student of his. Meverden laid the groundwork through channels to bring both sides together.

Through little gestures of good faith toward villagers and a simple local custom used when a life is taken or injured, forgiveness was achieved all around. The custom involved the giving of a sheep to the effected families and feasting with the relatives. The soldiers expressed their sadness for the incident and the Afghans responded in kind by forgiving them. "I remember what the spokesperson for the Afghans said."

That man said, 'You didn't have to bring us anything. Just your coming today is more than words can express. The fact that you have come today to mourn and shed tears with us for our boys shows that you see us as people, and not just mere animals. Our country has been at war and many have died, but since your coming last November the war has stopped. For the first time, there is the hope of peace and prosperity in our lifetime.'

According to Meverden, the ceremony turned from a solemn occasion into a time of celebration and reconciliation.

"Many of us are caught in storms of our own," said Chaplain Andy. "How we react to that storm is important. Remember they are only temporary."

Finishing his presentation to the attentive members of the audience, the multi-faceted Chaplain Andy took out a guitar and led the participants in a couple of inspirational songs as the prayer breakfast came to a close.

Attendee Lt. Col. Mary Miller, executive officer for the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab - Space Directorate, was moved by Meverden's address.

"I was intrigued by his experiences from the field," Miller said.

"Rarely does one get to hear or share stories that are of a person-to-person nature. It was also very compelling to see what one person can do or effect. It's like my mother used to say — how many ripples can one stone cast?"

Construction at Fort Buckner unearths centuries-old human remains

Human skulls determined to be nearly 300 years old

By 1st Lt. Eric Setzekorn
Unit Reporter

OKINAWA, Japan — Soldiers stationed here at Fort Buckner are used to being surrounded by both natural beauty and history. They recently, however, found out they were also unintentionally living on top of the latter.

Construction work to shore up the main barracks and prevent further soil erosion turned up ancient human remains.

Echo Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, soldiers and others on base were surprised to hear about the bones and other historical artifacts turned up by construction workers.

Preliminary studies have shown that the bones are the remains of three men and one woman dating from approximately 300 years ago.

A professor from the local University of Yamaguchi arrived on site to date and



Photo by Larry Thompson

Human remains discovered under the main barracks at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan, surprised E Co., 1st SATCON soldiers and other residents of the base. Other historical artifacts dating back 300 years were also found.

catalog the artifacts.

Significant amounts of pottery and glass also were uncovered.

"I was very surprised to have them doing an archeological dig and finding human remains so close to the base and barracks," said E Co.'s Spc.

James Halbritter.

Okinawa was the center of the independent Kingdom of the Ryukyu 300 years ago and had a large trading relationship with China, the Philippines and the main islands of Japan. Okinawa only came under the direct

control of the main islands of Japan in the 19th century.

Until that time, it had its own king, customs and foreign relations. The island was densely populated at that time, and strongly focused on agriculture and fishing. The remains were possibly placed in the area as part of a tomb that was subsequently covered by soil shifts and erosion.

More work will be done to expand the original site and look for any other items that may have been disturbed by the construction work.

Also uncovered were more recent items, likely from the battle for Okinawa during World War II.

During the battle, the area that is now Fort Buckner was devastated by ship bombardment, due to its position as high ground overlooking the primary invasion beaches of the U.S. Army's 96th and 7th Infantry Divisions.

Continuing work hopefully will provide more answers concerning the history of the area around Fort Buckner.

Colorado Springs mayor bids farewell to National Guard Army Space Support Team headed to Iraq

By Maj. Laura Kenney
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The most recent Army Space Support Team to deploy to Iraq received a special sendoff from the mayor of Colorado Springs.

Lionel Rivera, a former Army captain elected in April as mayor of the city known as "the gateway to the Rockies," met with Team-12 prior to their October departure. He spoke with all six members privately just before a farewell ceremony, and was briefed on their upcoming mission.

The team, which had recently returned from a mission in Korea, deployed to support the Coalition Provisional Authority in its mission of rebuilding Iraq.

The six men — Maj. Michael Willis, team chief; Capt. George O'Neil, operations officer; Capt. James Innes, intelligence officer; Master Sgt. James Bunch, NCOIC; Staff Sgt. Brett Mills, topographic NCO; and Staff Sgt. Winston Delgado, communications NCO, expect a six-month deployment.

Willis joked about the quick change in missions exemplified by the color of the uniforms now worn by the team.

"Going from green for Korea, where we were supporting operations (exercise Ulchi Focus Lens) to the tan of desert camouflage uniforms for Iraq, where we'll be assisting people on a humanitarian mission, speaks to the versatility of space, and to how pervasive the need for it has become," Willis said.

1st Space Brigade commander, Col. David Shaffer, commented on the "pervasive need" aspect.

"The demand for space teams far exceeded what our original capabilities were. We ended up battle-rostering, which means looking through rosters for people who weren't necessarily on teams, but



Photo by Dennis Plummer

The mayor of Colorado Springs, Lionel Rivera, shakes hands with Colorado National Guard soldier Staff Sgt. Winston Delgado at a farewell ceremony held at Peterson Air Force Base in October.

who had the right qualifications and training. We also called for volunteers. There is absolutely no way we could have met these missions without our reserve component soldiers. This National Guard team is going to relieve another Guard team, ARSST-13, that's done a terrific job."

Rivera thanked the members of ARSST-12, all of whom belong to the Colorado Army National Guard.

"Most of you are local, right?" asked the mayor. At nods of assent — except for a soldier hailing from the Western Slope, Mills, who loudly stood up for his native section with a defiant hooah — the mayor continued.

"Thank you for making our city, our state and our nation proud. I see some

wedding rings, so I know there are families who will be left behind. We appreciate your sacrifice more than I can say. As the son of a war veteran, and as a former captain with seven years in the service, I have some idea of what you face, and I honor you for it. Godspeed, and come back safely to your families and to us."

Lt. Col Michael Yowell, commander of the 193rd Space Support Battalion, Colorado National Guard, said, "Through current operations and exercises, the Army is finding out what the National Guard brings to the warfighter and because of that, we face an ever-growing number of requests from the field. Since Sept. 11, we have rapidly responded to all mobilization requests from 1st Space Brigade."

Co-existing with bears and moose ...

There are certain safety procedures to follow when encountering Alaskan wildlife

By Joyce Duff
Fort Greely, Alaska

Have you ever been walking through your yard only to stop short of stepping in a pile of moose droppings? You may have if you live in Alaska.

Living in Alaska has the benefits of enjoying beautiful scenery and participating in a vast number of outdoor activities. Whether living in or visiting Alaska, you should educate yourself about the wildlife. You should learn about where the animals live and what they like to eat during the different seasons. Be able to identify and keep alert to fresh tracks and droppings.

Recently, a construction worker spotted a grizzly bear moving toward the main cantonment area of Fort Greely. For the safety of the construction workers on the missile defense site and the employees within the cantonment area, he reported the sighting to the military police on duty in that area.

Black and brown grizzly bears live almost everywhere in Alaska. Each year there are sightings of bears in and around the Fort Greely area. Even if you don't see a bear, you will never be far from one. Alaska is bear country.

"I did not actually get to see the bear but I was really excited to think that the possibility was there," said Spc. Patti Gorges of the Alaska National Guard Ground-Based Interceptor Battery.

"It was neat to know that after only a few days of assuming the MP mission people feel comfortable enough to come to us for assistance," she said. "The role that we took on site was to prevent personal injury by coordinating safety measures with the sergeant of the guard and the Department of the Army Police."

Safety measures taken by the DA Police included notifying the school and the missile site security personnel.

"The DA Police contacted occupants of housing units," said Michael Mitchell, Provost Marshal. "We continue to be alert to the possibility of a bear migrating through the housing area. For the safety of the children at the school, the administration canceled outdoor recess for the day of the sighting."

Bears don't like surprises! If you are out picking berries or hiking, be sure to make your presence known. Make noise, sing, talk loudly or tie a bell to your pack. Travel in a group if possible. Avoid thick brush. Walking with the wind at your back will warn bears that you are in the area. Bears can see very well but trust their sense of smell.

With only six months to fatten up for the long winter hibernation, bears are always looking for something to eat. Don't leave food and garbage outside without it being in sealed containers. Keep garbage containers away from your home or outdoor sleeping area. If you are camping or hunting, avoid cooking smelly foods.

What should you do if you encounter a bear? Avoid the bear if at all possible, identify yourself and don't run because you cannot outrun a bear. If attacked you should fall to the ground and play dead or roll up in a ball. Remember that common sense is your best approach.

In emergency situations firearms are dangerous in the hand of an inexperienced person and should not be used as an alternative to common sense. Defensive aerosol sprays may be effective but only at close range. Be sure to take appropriate precautions when carrying the spray and know how to use it.



Photo by Terry Parnell

A bull moose walks the Fort Greely fenceline.

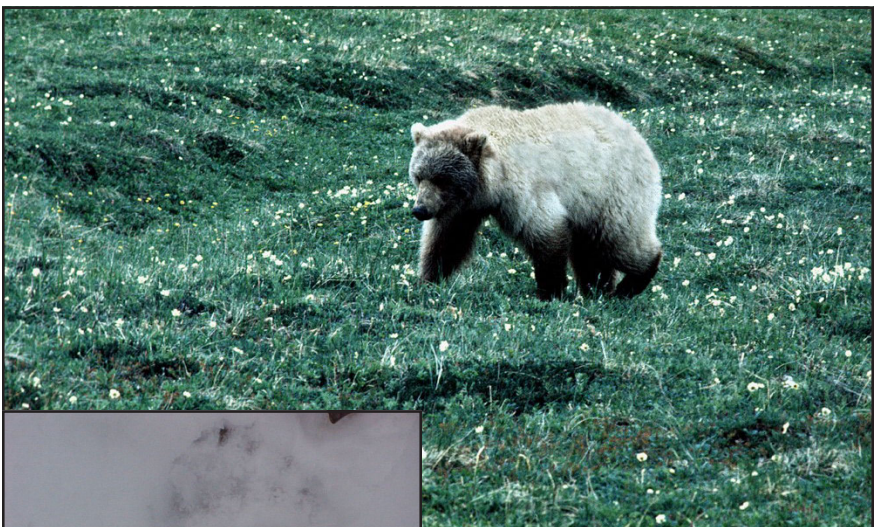


Photo by Mike Kingston



Photo by by Jeff Ketelsen

Moose around homes and along roadways are common occurrences. It is important to remember that however calm a moose appears they can be very aggressive. It is illegal and very dangerous to feed moose.

To avoid confrontations with moose, don't let your dog chase a moose, don't harass moose, give moose space and don't get between a cow moose and its calf.

If you see the long hairs on the hump of a moose raise, ears laid back and lick its lips you are way too close. All of these are warning signs and you should back off. Look for the nearest tree, fence, building car or other obstruction to duck behind.

Education and awareness of the wildlife will make your time in Alaska most memorable.

Let PAO tell your hometown of your accomplishments

Have you recently been promoted? Received an award? Changed work assignments? Why not share the news of your accomplishments with the folks "back home."

Soldiers, airmen and civilians alike can spread their good news through the Army and Air Force Hometown News Release Program.

All it takes is a few minutes to complete a Hometown News Release Form. Then, take the completed form to the Public Affairs Office, and let them handle the rest.

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Service is a field operating

agency headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. A small staff of Army and Air Force military and civilian personnel produces a variety of print and electronic news products highlighting the accomplishments and worldwide activities of civilians, soldiers and airmen.

Last year, more than 750,000 individual news releases were distributed to the 14,000 newspapers, television and radio stations subscribing to Hometown's free service.

The Hometown News program has been in existence for more than 40 years, with the Army running its program in Kansas City, Mo., and the Air Force running its program from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

In 1978, after a study by the Defense Audit Service, the decision was made to consolidate the two operations in San Antonio. In 1979, the Air Force Operation moved there, followed by the Army's operation in 1980.

The consolidation resulted in a savings of 35 personnel with a work force of 63 performing the mission previously done by 98 people. Since then, automation and other efficiencies have resulted in downsizing the organization to its current strength of 42 people.

For more information about the program, contact your local Public Affairs Office.

JTAGS CENTCOM helps warfighters get rest and recuperation

By Spc. Aaron Evans
and CWO 2 Jeffrey Robinson
Unit Reporters

DOHA, Qatar — To get away from the dust and heat of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, soldiers involved in those operations can travel to this Persian Gulf-front city for a few days’ of rest and recuperation.

Locally stationed soldiers from Detachment Echo, 15th Air Defense Joint Tactical Ground Station, Central Command, already an integral part of ongoing operations with their critical mission of providing Theater Ballistic Missile early warning, volunteered to help the incoming weary soldiers enjoy the R&R opportunity to the fullest.

Army CENTCOM-Qatar has the overall responsibility for what is called the Fighter Management Program. The JTAGS soldiers, along with other local units’ members, act as sponsors and offer vehicles, time and guide services to those soldiers lucky enough to spend time in Doha.

“It feels really good to be able to share something with these soldiers; to give something back and support them for their efforts,” said volunteer sponsor Petty Officer Patricia Viviano of Naval Network and Space Operations Command, Detachment Echo. “We are lucky to be in a position where we can get them off post and allow them to feel like real people again.”

The mission of the ARCENT-Qatar Fighter Management Program is to increase the morale and welfare of the soldiers that support OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. As of Sept. 7, about 7,091 soldiers have participated in the Fighter Management Program. Soldiers are afforded the



Photo by Spc. David Nussbacher

Posing in front of a local tourist attraction along the Persian Gulf city of Doha, Qatar, soldiers on a brief rest and recuperation respite from duties in Iraq and Afghanistan pal with their guides, Joint Tactical Ground Station – CENTCOM volunteers. The JTAGS soldiers are, fourth from left, CW2 Jeffrey Robinson, and, last two on right, Sgt. James Smith and Staff Sgt. Jeff Patterson.

opportunity to spend five days relaxing and participating in on-post and off-post Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities. Some of these activities include Dhow cruises, jet ski rides and water skiing.

The time span allotted is a period that participants can enjoy themselves and mentally and physically take themselves out of the battlefield mentality for a few days. While the soldiers are here, they are afforded the opportunity to swim, visit the malls and eat some meals at restaurants far removed from military chow lines. They also have the opportunity to visit with other soldiers and share their stories.

Another volunteer, Sgt. James Smith, of JTAGS Colorado Springs, said, “It’s great to reunite with fellow soldiers from other units and have an opportunity to take some of them out to the restaurants and talk about the good times of the past. It’s a good feeling to see their faces glow because they are in a restaurant in the Middle East.”

Spc. Jorel Santiago of JTAGS Colorado Springs, said, “It’s nice to meet some of the soldiers that are putting their lives on the line in the war on terrorism up there in Iraq. This is a great opportunity for them to have some fun, and for us to show them that they are appreciated.”

Events database provides one-stop reference location for future exercises, experiments and wargames

By Rachelle Pestikas
and Steve Overton

CRYSTAL CITY, Va. — U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command’s and Army Strategic Command’s participation in and execution of selected Exercises, Experiments and Wargames (EEW) is central to the successful development and integration of space, global missile defense, command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR), global strike, and information operations capabilities.

By actively participating in selected events, SMDC/ARSTRAT can effectively integrate its five mission areas into National, Joint and Army warfighter activities and future operations. Success will enable SMDC/ARSTRAT to identify lessons, provide meaningful operational assessments of current capabilities and influence changes across all doctrine, organizations, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) domains.

Because of the vast number

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call (703) 602-1387 or
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of EEW available for participation, G-3 has established a process by which the command’s participation in selected events is properly planned, coordinated, resourced and executed.

To achieve success, a management tool that provides all major subordinate elements within the command a single source to gather, store and share information was developed. This tool will assist in shaping objectives, researching archived planning conferences and providing a tracking system for lessons captured during SMDC-selected EEW events.

The SMDC/ARSTRAT G-3 Training and Readiness Branch, in conjunction with the EEW Integrating Office in Arlington and the Computer Information Office in Colorado Springs, Colo, has developed the Events Database (ED) to generate and maintain a library of information on EEW

events and, to a limited extent, operations in which the command participates.

The information will follow an event through the planning, operations and post-operations phases and will be available for reference for future planning of similar events. It also will be used for assessing the effectiveness of training and other functions that help achieve the command’s mission and vision.

The event portion of the ED will replace the database system called Exercises and Experiments Information System and will be used to store pertinent information related to EEW events, such as a description of the event, sponsor objectives, SMDC event objectives, exercise directives, IPR briefs, trip reports, planning conference dates and other applicable information.

The lesson portion of the ED will capture, store and track all lessons and affiliated tasks resulting from SMDC/ARSTRAT participation in EEW and operational events and make that information available to interested parties.

The ED is user-friendly and available for use throughout

‘It is an excellent tool for storing information and performing analyses.’

— Darshan Kakar
program analyst

SMDC/ARSTRAT and associated commands. Darshan Kakar, program analyst for the Force Development and Integration Center’s Exercise and Evaluation Division, has been using the database for three months and calls the program “a one-stop shop” for all EEW event information. “It is an excellent tool for storing information and performing analyses,” Kakar said.

SMDC-ED is accessible to anyone who has access to the SMDC/ARSTRAT SIPRNET Web page. Its use is geared to all SMDC personnel and selected personnel associated with SMDC/ARSTRAT operations (i.e., FA40s, various liaison officers to higher HQs, etc.). These personnel are allowed password access to the various levels of database management with the level of access determined by need.

Soldiers ‘buddy up’ again to help fight Down Syndrome

By Sharon L. Hartman
SMDC Public Affairs

DENVER, Colo. — Calling cadence to the drumming of footsteps on a rain soaked path, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command – Colorado Springs once again participated in the 56th Annual Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome at Clement’s Park here.

Light drizzle followed later by a downpour did not deter the more than 45 members and their families from their mission — serving as buddies to Matthew Smith, nephew of Headquarters and Headquarters Company’s 1st Sgt. Tammy Coon.

This is the second year members have joined together to support Matthew and others with Down Syndrome by participating in the three-mile walk. Participants paid an entry fee and also had the opportunity to collect pledges from sponsors to raise money. The funds raised help finance research and provide resources and support for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families.

An increase from last year’s 41 SMDC buddies, this year Matthew, more affectionately known as Matty, won a \$100 gift certificate to Media Play for having the most pre-registered buddies, 63 in all.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. Tammy Coon’s nephew Matthew (Matty) Smith carries the company guidon during the 56th Annual Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome. Forty-five members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command journeyed up to Denver to serve as ‘buddies’ to Matty who has Down Syndrome.

Matty also held another distinction above the other walkers ... one of *his* buddies was an astronaut! Lt. Col. Timothy J. Creamer, an SMDC Army astronaut,

rocketed into town for an event filled week, which included the Buddy Walk followed by a trip to Coors Field for a Colorado Rockies game.



Photo by Bud Butcher

Change of reins at HHC, SMDC - Colorado Springs

A new leadership team is in place here after two events ceremoniously marked the handing over of command and responsibility from old to new. Capt. Scott Matey relinquished command to Capt. Brian Gordon with the passing of the guidon. Then 1st Sgt. Tammy Coon acted as intermediary in that ceremony, before shortly afterward passing the numerous responsibilities of first sergeant to incoming 1st Sgt. Rose Lord.

Application window opens for scholarship program

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nov. 4 kicked off the application period for the children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve members to apply for \$1,500 academic scholarships. The application window for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program extends through Feb. 18.

Now in its fourth year, the program, operated by the Defense Commissary Agency has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to some 1,500 children of U.S. service

members and retirees.

The goal, according to Kay Kennedy, chief of corporate communications for the Defense Commissary Agency, is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location, depending on the number of qualified applicants and funding.

Funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries, Kennedy explained. In addition, the Fisher House Foundation is underwriting the program’s administrative costs.

The general public can also

contribute to the program through the Fisher House Foundation and the Armed Forces Foundation.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Wiedemer, director of the Defense Commissary Agency, said he is excited about the program’s growth. Last year, 550 scholarship recipients were selected from 6,500 applicants.

Among them was Matthew Clark, a junior at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., when he learned last year that he had been selected to receive what he described as a much-needed scholarship.

Clark wrote to officials at the

Defense Commissary Agency that he always sensed that his father, a disabled Vietnam Veteran, had felt extreme frustration about not being able to work and provide for his family.

“I see this scholarship as an act of appreciation for what he did for our country,” Clark wrote. “When I found out that I had won the award, I wrote him a letter of thanks. I told him that without his sacrifice, I would not have even had the opportunity to apply.”

For more about the program and application procedures, visit the Web site at <http://www.militaryscholar.org/>.

Donors sought for 'gift of groceries' program for military families

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With the holiday season right around the corner, officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are encouraging the American public to show its support for U.S. service members through its highly successful "Gift of Groceries" program.

The program, which enables anyone to purchase and donate gift certificates good at all 280 military commissaries worldwide, reached the \$1 million mark just six months after its launch in September 2002, according to Kaye Kennedy, the agency's corporate communications chief. Now that figure has climbed even higher, with \$1.6 million in gift certificates purchased through the program.

To buy purchase commissary gift certificates, visit www.commissaries.com or call the toll-free 1-877-770-GIFT. The certificates are not sold in commissaries, Kennedy said.

A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the cost of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery, but installation charities can apply for a waiver by checking with their local commissary.



Photo by Spc. Matthew Hagen

D Company gets new commander

Capt. Stacy Godshall, new commander of D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, receives the company colors from battalion commander **Lt. Col. Mearen Bethea** in a change of command ceremony. Outgoing commander, **Capt. Phillip Dawson** stands to the left, **1st Sgt. Ottis L. Pledger** and **Spc. Michael Griffin** stand to the right.



Norman R. Runk, chief of the Outreach and Liaison Branch and chief of the Training and Career Development Branch in the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive, spoke about strategic counterintelligence issues affecting SMDC and its employees.

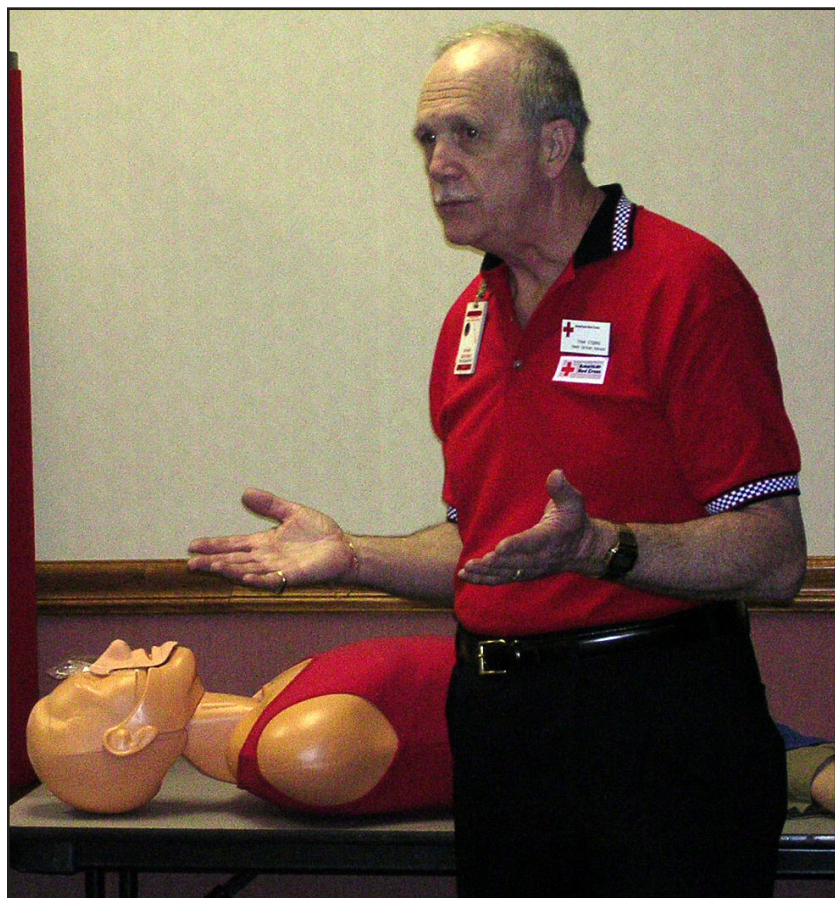
Safety, security topics of the day

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Huntsville, Ala., conducted its annual Safety and Security Awareness Day activities at the Bob Jones Auditorium, Sparkman Center, Redstone Arsenal, Nov. 6.

Norman Runk and Bryan Hurd, from The National Counterintelligence Executive, made presentations on Strategic Counterintelligence issues relevant to SMDC and information and computer security issues relevant at both home and at work. Wayne Smith, a senior intelligence analyst with the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff briefed the audience on identity theft and its harmful effects.

Throughout the day employees visited the safety fair held on the second floor of SMDC, learning about a variety of health-related issues. Several national and local organizations participated.

The American Red Cross gave demonstrations on the Heimlich Maneuver; Mothers Against Drunk Driving handed out literature and goodies; the Army Safety Center distributed safe driving videos geared for teenagers; and the American Cancer Society offered good information on healthy eating. The SMDC Safety Office provided handouts and brochures about proper walking, lifting and other activities we are involved in every day.



Photos by Becky Proaps

Frank Stebbins with the American Red Cross explains what to do to an adult who may be choking or who requires CPR.



Laura Eick, Arrow Program Office, takes the Driving Challenge, an interactive driving simulation experience that evaluated her ability to handle distractions while on the road.



Nearly 18,500 runners anticipate the start of the 19th Annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5.

Photo by John Upp



Col. David Farrisee, SMDC chief of staff, completed the 10-mile course in 1 hour, 8 minutes, 30 seconds.



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. enjoys a cool drink of water while chatting with Sgt. Maj. Daniel Rutledge and Master Sgt. Preston Lee before the race.

Ten-Miler Results

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Twenty-two U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command runners participated in the 19th annual Army Ten-Miler Oct. 5.

Chief of Staff Col. David Farrisee topped all SMDC runners with a time of 1 hour, 8 minutes, 30 seconds, just 20 minutes behind the top male finisher for the course.

Other results, by team are listed below:

Atlantis

- LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., 1:26.27
- Mike Cornett, 1:12.54
- Maj. Stephen Redmon, 1:10.26
- Col. David Farrisee, 1:08.30
- Col. Michael Child, 1:32.33

Discovery

- Sgt. Logan Maynard, 1:18.25

- Spc. Michael Griffin, 1:15.11
- Capt. Daniel Gager, 1:20.37
- Sgt. Richard Walraven, 1:19.22
- Master Sgt. Travis Adams, 1:17.31

Gemini

- Capt. Angela Johnson, 1:35.11
- Lt. Col. Michael Smith, 1:15.53
- Lt. Col. Ward Marshall, 1:34.18
- Lt. Lauren Schultz, 1:25.24
- Ellis Whitt, 1:15.01
- Lt. Col. Michael Zarbo, 1:22.36

Thundering Herd

- Lt. Col. Jeff Souder, 1:13.24
- Stewart Stout, 1:25.05
- Jeff Faunce, 1:25.50
- Capt. Phil Speth, 1:26.06

RSSC Runners

- Staff Sgt. Jeremy Jones, 1:19.52
- Staff Sgt. Gregory Singer, 1:19.51



Sgt. Logan Maynard rounds the last turn on the way to the finish line.



Capt. Angela Johnson keeps the pace.

Photos by Debra Valine